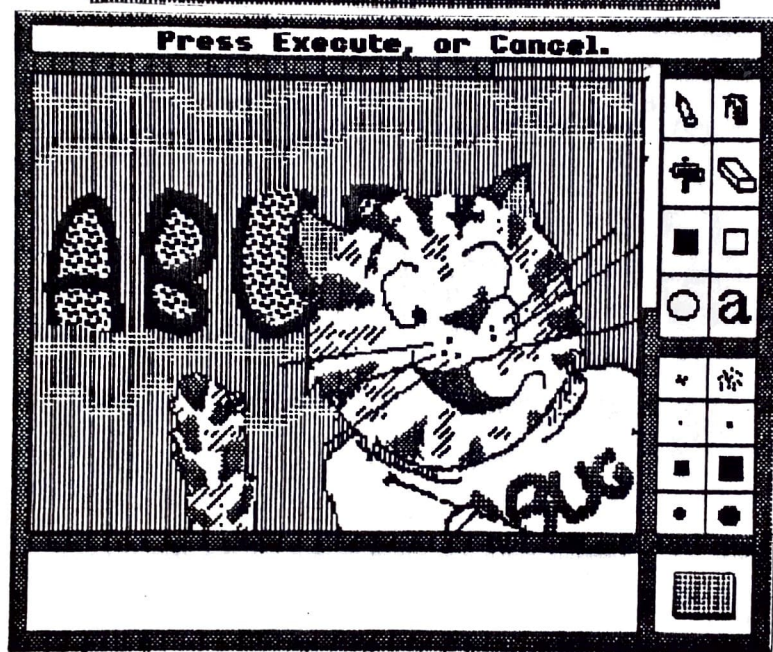
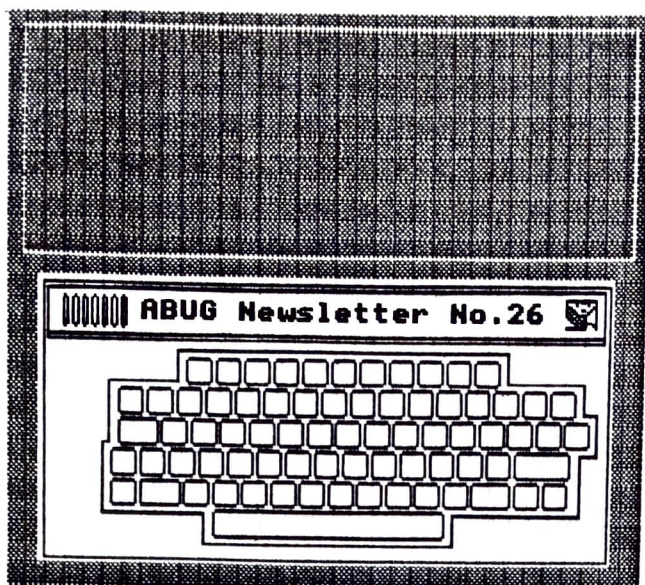


# ABUG



ACORN & BBC  
microcomputers  
USER GROUP  
Sheffield



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## Diary

June 19	Park Baths	
July 3	R & B's	Social
July 17	Park Baths	

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on 15 May 1985 at Park Baths. The following members "volunteered" to form the new committee, and were duly appointed:

Chairman:	Frank Webster
Secretary:	Mike Cattell
Treasurer:	Michael Beetham
Librarian:	Mike Robinson
Editors:	Dave Brown Pete Frith

The astute amongst you will have noted that there is not an Events Organiser on the list. A club member has expressed an interest in doing this job, but he was unfortunately not present at the AGM. He may be co-opted onto the committee at a later date.

I'm sure that all the members of the club would like to thank John Morrell, Carol Hounslow, John Fryer, John Bramwell, Ken West, Phil Rubini and Tony Wood for all the hard work that they have put into making the club a success over the last 3 years. The club is in a healthy financial position, with cash assets of £376. This means, incidentally, that we can obtain more items for the Library, if members wish. If you have any ideas for possible additions, please contact any member of the committee.

## New Members

The number of members has fallen over the past few months, so if you know of anyone who might like to join, please give them every encouragement. As we are now almost half way through the year, the membership fee for new members for the rest of 1985 is only £4, or £5 for a family membership. A limited number of back issues of the newsletter are available on request for recruitment purposes.



## Future Meetings

As most members probably know, the room in the Hornblower is no longer available, as it is being converted into a pool room. We intend to continue holding the formal meetings (on the third Wednesday of the month) at Park Baths, but the location for the social meetings is in more doubt. The last meeting was held in R & B's Updown Bar in Scotland Street, West Bar, and the next meeting will also be held there. If in doubt, check Datron's window in Glossop Road, or ring the secretary on Dronfield 417413

## Acorn BBC B+

Most of you have probably already seen details of Acorn's enhanced BBC machine, but for those who haven't, here is a brief run-down of its features. Externally it looks just like any other BBC machine, but inside is a completely re-designed circuit board (Issue 1, 1984). All the chips are soldered directly into the board, rather than socketed as is the case with the old model, and the sideways ROM sockets are on the left hand side, rather than under the keyboard. These sockets can now take up to 32 Kbyte ROMs and, since BASIC and the operating system are combined in one chip, there is one extra socket available.

The disc controller chip is a 1770, replacing the aging (and expensive) 8271, although its operation seems to be virtually identical, and double density format is not used. The other major change concerns the fitting of special memory to handle the screen display. This seems to work in the same way as the Aries (and similar) boards, and gives a full 28.5 Kbytes available memory in any mode.

The new machine has been generally well received by the computing press, and seems to be considered a good machine. However, the reviewers all agree that it seems grossly over priced. Acorn are asking £499 for the B+, including the disc interface, which at a time when, for example, the Amstrad 664, complete with monitor and disc drive, costs £339, and Atari's 512 Kbyte 520ST complete with disc drive is expected to cost £700, it is difficult to see who Acorn expect to sell this machine to. However, ACT have taken out full-page advertisements in the national press explaining how much better value for money the Apricot is over the B+ for educational establishments, so they must consider it a serious competitor.

## Copying

The new committee would like to repeat the point made by the retiring committee on several occasions, that the club meetings should not become a focus for pirate copying of software, and we ask you to refrain from doing this. By all means bring along your latest acquisitions to demonstrate your prowess (or otherwise) to your friends, but please do not engage in taking illegal copies.

## Chairmans Letter

The democratic (?) process has brought in a new committee, the members of which, I hope you are already familiar with. To follow the excellent work of the previous committee will certainly be difficult, if not impossible, but it is hoped that new ideas and a re-hash of the old will maintain the interest of all the computer enthusiasts who are at present, members of ABUG. Who knows, we may even attract and encourage new members. If you have any comments or suggestions for ABUG activities, why not let us know.

F.K. Webster (Chairman)

## Library

The library contains the following items:

### Disk Software

Masterfile (+Instructions)  
Spellcheck-Wordwise (+Instructions)  
Solidisk Volume 3  
Solidisk Volume 8

Beebug  
Beebug  
Solidisk Tech.  
Solidisk Tech.

### Cassette Software

Multifile  
The French Mistress  
Road Runner  
Jumbo (+Instructions)  
The Hobbit (+Instructions)  
Forth (+Book)  
King Kong  
Draughts & Reversi  
Graphito

Bug Byte  
Kansas  
Superior Software  
Molimerx  
Melbourne House  
Acornsoft  
Micro User No. 2  
Acornsoft  
Addison-Wesley

### Books

Advanced User Guide  
Advanced Graphics  
Assembly Language  
The Book Of Listings  
The BBC Micro Revealed  
Making Music On The BBC Micro  
Forth Theory And Practice (Also Cass.)  
Lisp Theory And Practice  
Service Manual for the BBC Micro

Angell & Jones  
Birnbaum  
Hartnell & Rushton  
Rushton  
Waugh  
Acornsoft  
Acornsoft

For Sale:

Penman Robot Plotter

As revealed in the January newsletter, and demonstrated at meetings by John Bramwell. The plotter is in pristine condition, complete with cable, manual, and, software including a Mouse graphics program written by Myself. A change in my financial situation forces a reluctant sale after only a few months and I'll accept the best offer around £240. (Note: The current list price including VAT & postage is £343). Please contact Mike Robinson on Sheffield 342870

Computer Systems disk drive. 40 track, Single sided, with cables. Hardly used: £80, Advanced User Guide- £7, Graphpad- £70  
Please Contact Pete Frith on Sheffield 389165 after 6pm.

Anyone wishing to place an item in the For Sale, Should contact one of the Editors.